



COUNTY OF MENDOCINO  
EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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August 28, 2008

Mary D. Nichols, Chair  
California Air Resources Board  
1001 I St.  
Sacramento, California 95814

RE: Climate Change Scoping Plan, June 2008 Discussion Draft

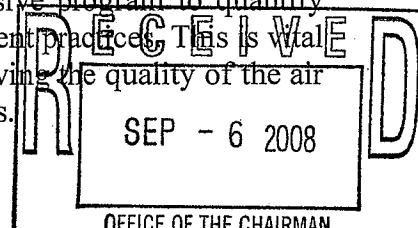
Dear Chair Nichols:

On behalf of the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors, I am writing to comment on the June 2008 Discussion Draft of the Climate Change Scoping Plan. I appreciate the efforts of Air Resource Board (ARB) to reach out to local governments during this process. However, the Board of Supervisors is concerned that the document does not adequately address the serious issue of catastrophic wildfire. Wildfire mitigation and prevention are vital to ARB's success in meeting the goals set forth in AB 32.

As you are aware, in May 2008, Governor Schwarzenegger issued Executive Order S-03-08, which specifically directed CalEPA and the California Resources Agency to oversee the Climate Action Team's development of measures for wildfire fuels reduction and biomass utilization. In light of the Executive Order, the current rampant wildfires around the state, and the Governor's recent emergency declarations, we are troubled that no such measures have been outlined in the Scoping Plan.

Recent wildfires statewide have had major impacts on air quality, contributing significantly to California's carbon and particulate emissions. As the wildfire season progresses, thousands of acres of forest lands will needlessly burn, releasing even more carbon and further contributing to our poor air quality. Catastrophic wildfires are typically on United States Forest Service (USFS) lands, and we maintain that many of those fires, along with the corresponding emissions, could be prevented if USFS lands were more efficiently managed. We are concerned that the Draft Scoping Plan makes only a vague mention of fuels reduction and fails to address emissions from fires on USFS lands.

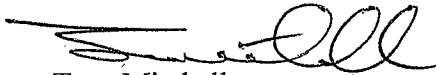
Please find attached a recent resolution on this matter approved by the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors. Mendocino County strongly urges ARB to include in the Final Draft Scoping Plan a firm commitment by the state to join with local governments to advocate at the federal level for enhanced management on USFS lands, as well as an extensive program to quantify wildfire emissions that could be avoided through better forest management practices. This is vital not only in meeting the goals of AB 32, but more importantly to improving the quality of the air and public health. We thank you for your consideration of our comments.



August 28, 2008

If you or your staff have any questions, please contact Deputy Chief Executive Officer Paul Cayler at (707) 463-4441.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Mitchell", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Tom Mitchell  
Chief Executive Officer

CC: Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger  
Members, California Air Resources Board  
Mendocino County Board of Supervisors